

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 08092 301521Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----110487 301531Z /53

O 301435Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9223
INFO AMEMBASSY LOME IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USINTS HAVANA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 8092

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS XA CU NI
SUBJECT: NIGERIAN ADVICE TO THE CUBANS

REF: (A) LAGOS 8033; (B) LAGOS 6853

1. THE AMBASSADOR OF TOGO TOLD ME TODAY THAT OBASANJO HAD INFORMED THE TOGOLESE MINISTERIAL MISSION (REFTEL A) EARLIER THIS WEEK THAT THE FMG RECENTLY SENT THE CUBANS A WRITTEN COMMUNICATION REGARDING THE PRESENCE OF THEIR TROOPS IN AFRICA. ACCORDING TO AMBASSADOR APEDO-AMAH, THE GIST OF THE MESSAGE HAD BEEN THAT NIGERIA APPRECIATED THE ASSISTANCE WHICH CUBAN TROOPS IN AFRICA HAD PROVIDED IN THE PASTBUT THAT ENOUGH WAS ENOUGH AND THE FMG NOW HOPES THAT CUBAN TROOPS IN AFRICA WILL BE WITHDRAWN. OBASANJO INDICATED THAT THE FMG WILL TAKE ADDITIONAL STEPS IN THE FUTURE DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE THE WITHDRAWAL OF CUBAN TROOPS.

2. THIS INFORMATION INDICATES THAT THERE WAS A GREAT DEAL OF SIGNIFICANCE BEHIND THE STATEMENT IN THE
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PAGE 02 LAGOS 08092 301521Z

FMG'S PRESS RELEASE (REFTEL A) THAT NIGERIA'S OPPOSITION TO THE PRESENCE "OF ANY FOREIGN TROOPS ON AFRICAN SOIL...HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO THE NOTICE OF ALL THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED."

3. WE REPORTED EARLIER (REFTEL B) THAT THE SENDING OF PEACEKEEPING FORCES TO SHABA PROVINCE HAD

SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED EXISTING NIGERIAN UNEASINESS ABOUT THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF AFRICAN TROOPS IN CUBA. THE PRESENT INFORMATION SHOWS THAT NIGERIAN RETHINKING IN THIS RESPECT HAS GONE CONSIDERABLY FARTHER THEN SEEMED LIKELY AT THAT TIME. WE FEEL SURE THAT THERE ARE MANY WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT WHO DO NOT AGREE WITH THE ADVICE WHICH THE FMG HAS NOW GIVEN THE CUBANS.

4. WE WILL DISCREETLY ENDEAVOR TO OBTAIN CORROBORATION OF THIS REPORT AS CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT.
WYMAN

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